

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A blade tensioner for applying tension to a chain, the blade tensioner comprising:

a base having a sliding face;

a blade shoe having a first face and an opposing second face, the first face having a chain sliding face against which the chain is slidable, a first blade shoe portion pivotably supported by the base, and a second blade shoe portion freely slidable relative to the base sliding face;

a plurality of blade springs disposed on the second face of the blade shoe for applying a biasing force to the blade shoe; and

a friction surface disposed between the second blade shoe portion and the sliding face of the base, a coefficient of friction between the friction surface and the second blade shoe portion being different than a coefficient of friction between the sliding face of the base and the second blade shoe portion effective to damp vibrations of the tensioner when the second blade shoe portion slides on the friction surface thereon.

Claims 2-4 (Withdrawn).

Claim 5 (Original): A blade tensioner according to Claim 1, wherein the friction surface is attached to the sliding face of the base by means of bonding, welding, or coating.

Claim 6 (Original): A blade tensioner according to Claim 5, wherein the friction surface is configured using rubber, plastic, or friction paper.

Claims 7-12 (Withdrawn).

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): A method of applying tension to a chain with a blade tensioner, the method comprising:

providing a base having a sliding surface formed thereon;

pivotably attaching a first portion of a blade shoe to the base, the blade shoe having a chain sliding face and an opposing face opposite the chain sliding face, the blade shoe having a second portion slidable relative to the base sliding surface;

biasing the blade shoe against the chain with at least one blade spring disposed on the opposing face of the blade shoe;

damping vibrations of the tensioner with a friction surface, a coefficient of friction between the friction surface and the second portion of the blade shoe being different from a coefficient of friction between the base sliding surface and the second portion of the blade shoe, the friction surface being provided between the second portion of the shoe and the base sliding surface such that the second portion of the blade shoe is slidable upon the friction surface.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of applying tension to a chain according to Claim 13, including mounting the friction surface to the base sliding surface.

Claims 15-18 (Withdrawn).